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Purdue University is one of 68 land-grant colleges and universities which owe their origin to the Land-Grant Act of 1862, otherwise known as the Morrill Act. Three years after its passage, the General Assembly of Indiana voted to avail itself of the provisions of this Act and began preliminary plans for a school devoted primarily to the agricultural and mechanical arts.

In 1869 the Assembly voted to accept a gift of land and money from John Purdue and other generous Lafayette citizens declaring in appreciation the name of the new institution to be Purdue University. The University is supported mainly by state appropriation, supplemented by federal grants.

Actual instruction began in 1874 with 39 students and a faculty of six. Today Purdue conducts classes and research in more than 70 principal buildings and controls over 8,000 acres of land. Serving on its various staffs are more than 5,000 persons.

Undergraduate and graduate instruction is offered in agriculture; aeronautical and engineering sciences, chemical, civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical, and metallurgical engineering; industrial management; home economics; pharmacy; science, education, and humanities; and veterinary science and medicine.

Extensive experiment stations in both engineering and agriculture are maintained by the University. The agriculture extension division, through the county agents, services the entire state. Courses credited toward a college degree and the two-year Diploma in Applied Technology are offered through off-campus University Centers at Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Michigan City, and Hammond. A variety of courses is also offered by the adult education programs sponsored by the University.

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